**In the Claims:**

1. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a HIV comprising of:

the use of at least one polypeptide including an amino acid sequence from the group consisting of KPV, MEHFRWG, HFRWGKPV, SYSMEHFRWGKPV or a biologically functional equivalent of any of the foregoing.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the HIV is accompanied by the presence of bacteria or fungi or both.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the bacteria present is from the genus *Staphylococcus*.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the bacteria present is *Staphylococcus aereus*.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the fungi present is from the genus *Candida*.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the fungi present is *Candida albicans*.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the amino acid sequence KPV, HFRWGKPV, or SYSMEHFRWGKPV is located at the C-terminal of at least one polypeptide.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the amino acid sequences KPV, HFRWGKPV, MEHFRWG, or SYSMEHFRWGKPV includes at least one amino acid in the D-form.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one polypeptide is N-acetylated or C-amidated or both.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one polypeptide includes a dimer from any amino acid sequence in the group in claim 1.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the dimer is a KPV dimer.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a HIV comprising of:

the use of at least one polypeptide including an amino acid sequence form the group consisting of KPV, MEHFRWG, HFRWGKPV, SYSMEHFRWGKPV or a biologically functional equivalent of any of the foregoing in a pharmaceutically appropriate amount contained in one of the carriers from the following group consisting of a solution for injection, a liquid, a pill, a capsule, a suppository, and an inhaler.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~treating secondary~~ inhibiting opportunistic infections in ~~a~~ an HIV-infected individual comprising: administering to the individual a pharmaceutically appropriate amount of a KPV tripeptide ~~., and wherein the KPV is anti-microbial.~~

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P. 24 "core" α-MSH than "little anti-inflammatory activity" against C. albicans
P. 26 antimicrobial is specific to C-terminal α-MSH sequence (i.e., KPV)

14. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a inflammation due to HIV and/or secondary infections comprising of:

the use of at least one polypeptide including an amino acid sequence from the group consisting of KPV, MEHFRWG, HFRWGKPV, SYSMEHFRWGKPV or a biologically functional equivalent of any of the foregoing.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the KPV tripeptide is contained in a carrier selected from the group consisting of a solution for

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injection, a liquid, a pill, a capsule, a cream, an ointment, a gel, a suppository, an aerosol spray, and an inhaler.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~treating secondary~~ inhibiting opportunistic infections in ~~a~~ an HIV-infected individual comprising: administering a KPV tripeptide composition in a pharmaceutically appropriate amount to the HIV-infected individual wherein the KPV tripeptide composition comprises the KPV tripeptide and a carrier., ~~and the KPV is anti-microbial.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the KPV tripeptide composition is administered orally, parenterally, locally or topically.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the carrier is water, saline, gelatin, gum arabic, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, talc, vegetable oil, polyalkylene-glycol, petroleum jelly, a solution, a suspension, an ointment, a cream, a powder, a gel, or an aerosol.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the additive is a flavoring, a preservative, a stabilizer, a emulsifier, a buffer or a combination thereof.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the pharmaceutically appropriate amount for an oral administration is about 1-10 milligrams/kg.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the pharmaceutically appropriate amount for an intravenous administration is about 1-10 micrograms/kg.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the KPV tripeptide composition comprises 10-40% by weight of the KPV tripeptide composition for a topical administration.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~enhancing the killing of a pathogen~~ inhibiting bacterial or fungal infections in ~~a~~ an HIV-infected individual comprising administering to the HIV-infected individual a pharmaceutically appropriate amount of a KPV tripeptide. ~~wherein the KPV is anti-microbial.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the KPV tripeptide is contained in a carrier selected from the group consisting of a solution for injection, a liquid, a pill, a capsule, a cream, an ointment, a gel, a suppository, an aerosol spray, and an inhaler.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~enhancing the killing of a pathogen~~ inhibiting bacterial or fungal infections in ~~a~~ an HIV-infected individual comprising: administering a KPV tripeptide composition in a pharmaceutically appropriate amount to the HIV-infected individual, wherein the KPV tripeptide ~~comprises a KPV and a carrier and the KPV is anti-microbial~~ composition comprises a KPV tripeptide and a carrier.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the KPV tripeptide composition is administered orally, parenterally, locally or topically.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the carrier is water, saline, gelatin, gum arabic, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, talc, vegetable oil, polyalkylene-glycol, petroleum jelly, a solution, a suspension, an ointment, a cream, a powder, a gel, or an aerosol.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the KPV tripeptide composition further comprises an additive.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the additive is a flavoring, a preservative, a stabilizer, a emulsifier, a buffer or a combination thereof.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the pharmaceutically appropriate amount for an oral administration is about 1-10 milligrams/kg.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the pharmaceutically appropriate amount for an intravenous administration is about 1-10 micrograms/kg.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the KPV tripeptide in the KPV tripeptide composition comprises 10-40% by weight of the KPV tripeptide composition for a topical administration.